

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, BY

SUBJ: FY-76 IV GRANT NOMINATION

1. POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE MRS. JEANNE NTAKABANYURA (ACCENT ON THE NEXT TO LAST SYLLABLE) FOR A ONE MONTH INTERNATIONAL LEADER GRANT TO THE U.S. BEGINNING O/A SEPTEMBER 1. MRS. NTAKABANYURA IS A PROGRAM AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT'S OFFICE OF TOURISM. SHE IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE BURUNDI WOMEN'S UNION (UFB) AND IS AN ADVISOR ON WOMEN'S AFFAIRS TO MRS. MICOMBERO, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE. SHE IS THE FIRST BURUNDI WOMAN THE POST HAS EVER NOMINATED FOR A LEADER GRANT. THE MAIN FOCUS OF HER TRIP TO THE U.S. WOULD BE TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HER TO OBSERVE TOURIST FACILITIES AND TO OBTAIN IDEAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF BURUNDI'S FLEDGLING TOURIST EFFORT WHICH IS PART OF ITS FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. SECONDARILY, IT WOULD BE TO VISIT SOME WOMEN'S GROUPS AND TO OBSERVE THE FALL U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: MRS. NTAKABANYURA WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 9, 1951 IN IBUYE, NGOZI PROVINCE, BURUNDI. SHE RECEIVED HER PRIMARY EDUCATION IN NGOZI, GITEGA AND BUJUMBURA IN BURUNDI AND IN BUTARE IN RWANDA; SHE ATTENDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BELGIUM, ENGLAND, AND GERMANY. SHE THEN ATTENDED A TRANSLATORS' SCHOOL IN BURSSELS FOR THREE YEARS WORKING IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH. AFTERWARDS SHE HAD A YEAR STUDYING TOURISM IN BRUSSELS AND WORKED THERE AS AN INTERN IN A TOURIST AGENCY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. SHE RETURNED TO BURUNDI IN 1972 AND BEGAN WORKING FOR THE JUST FOUNDED GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU. SINCE

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THEN, SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN CREATING PROMOTION MATERIALS,

ARRANGING BURUNDI CULTURAL PERFORMANCES IN EUROPE, AND DEVISING TRAVEL PROGRAMS FOR TOURISTS COMING TO BURUNDI. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, PIERRE BIGAYIMPUNZI, WHO WAS FORMERLY BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN AND THE FRG. SHE WAS RECENTLY MARRIED TO JOSEPH NTAKABANYURA, A BURUNDI DIPLOMAT WHO WAS AMBASSADOR TO PARIS AND IS NOT DIRECTOR OF TREATIES, CONFERENCES AND DOCUMENTATION IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SHE SPEAKS KIRUNDI, FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND GERMAN AND HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY IN EUROPE AND AFRICA. SHE IS CATHOLIC. HER SPECIAL INTERESTS INCLUDE WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, MUSIC (CLASSICS TO JAZZ), READING. THERE ARE NO HEALTH OR DIET RESTRICTIONS.

3. A TRAVEL PROGRAM FOR MRS. NTAKABANYURA SHOULD INCLUDE TOURIST BUREAUS CATERING PARTICULARLY TO AFRICAN TRAVEL SO THAT SHE CAN GET AN IDEA OF WHAT TOURISTS EXPECT OR ARE MOST ATTRACTED TO IN AFRICA AND HOW BURUNDI MIGHT BEST TAILOR ITS TOURIST OFFERINGS TO THE EAST AFRICA CIRCUIT. SHE SHOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE WHO HANDLE PROMOTION MATERIALS AND ADVERTISEMENTS FOR TOURISM. SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW TOURIST BUREAUS ARE ORGANIZED (A STATE TOURIST BUREAU MIGHT BE MOST SIMILAR TO HER SITUATION HERE), HOW TRANSPORT IS ORGANIZED, HOW TOURIST GUIDES ARE TRAINED, HOW CITY OR HOME HOSPITALITY FOR VISITORS IS ORGANIZED. SHE SHOULD SEE TOURIST FACILITIES IN REGIONS WHICH BEAR SOME SIMILARITY TO BURUNDI'S LAKE/BEACH/HIGH MOUNTAIN SCENERY. SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CATTLE RANCH (THIS MIGHT BE A DUDE RANCH), AN AQUARIUM, A ZOO (SAN DIEGO MIGHT BE IDEAL FOR THE LAST TWO), LOCAL MUSEUMS (PARTICULARLY IF THERE ARE ANY OPEN AIR MUSEUMS), MOUNTAIN RESORTS, LAKE RESORTS, AND SOME NATIONAL PARKS. SHE HAS MENTIONED NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO AS CITIES SHE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT; SHE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ULTIMATE TOURIST SPECTACULAR IN THE U.S.--DISNEYLAND--AND HEAR SOME BLACK SPIRITUAL SINGING AT A CHURCH SERVICE. SHE WOULD LIKE TO MEET SOME WOMEN'S GROUPS AND OBSERVE SOME OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGNING.

4. HER ENGLISH IS VERY GOOD (SHE HAS TAUGHT ENGLISH AT THE U.S. CULTURAL CENTER) AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN INTERPRETOR IS NECESSARY. WE DO RECOMMEND A WOMAN ESCORT, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS IS HER FIRST VISIT TO THE U.S. AND HER UNCLASSIFIED

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TRIP WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER AND MORE MEANINGFUL IF THERE IS SOMEONE ALONG TO ASSIST AND EXPLAIN. SHE IS FRIENDLY, OUTGOING, ARTICULATE, SOPHISTICATED, AND IS WELL-QUALIFIED AND WILLING TO SPEAK TO GROUPS OR DO LOCAL RADIO OR TELEVISION INTERVIEWS.
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